CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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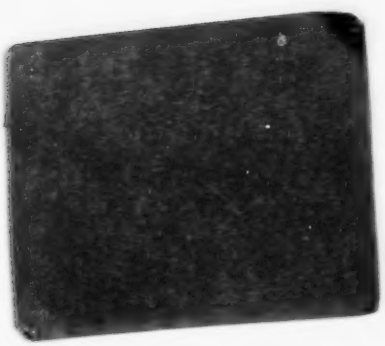
LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1997 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE CONCERNING THE DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA TO ATTEND THE ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES TREATY SIGNING CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA, CANADA, ON 2-4 DECEMBER 1997 AND SIGN THE "CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION"

I have the honour to forward herewith the Press Release issued by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on 17 November 1997 concerning the decision by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia to attend the Anti-Personnel Mines Treaty Signing Conference in Ottawa, Canada, on 2-4 December 1997 and sign the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction".

I would be grateful if this Press Release could be registered as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed for information to all member and non-member States participating in the work of the Conference.

(Signed) Agus Tarmidzi
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



PRESS RELEASE

No. 60/PR/XI/97

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia on Monday, 17 November 1997, decided to attend the Anti-Personnel Mines Treaty Signing Conference in Ottawa, Canada, on 2-4 December 1997 and sign the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction"

The Convention bans states party to use, stockpile, produce and transfer anti-personnel landmines. Under this Convention, states party undertake to destroy all of its stocks except a number of anti-personnel landmines for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine techniques.

The decision to sign the Convention is a testimony of the commitment of the Government of Indonesia to the main objective of the Convention namely to put an end to the suffering and casualites caused by anti-personnel landmines, that kill and maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent covilians. The Government of Indonesia also fully supports the principle that the use of anti-personnel landmines obstructs national development, particularly economic development, and inhibits the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons. The use of anti-personnel landmines also creates other severe consequences for years, even after the end of armed conflict.

Jakarta, November 17, 1997